

We only use cookies that are necessary for this site to function, and to provide you with the best experience. Learn more in our [Cookie Statement](#). By continuing to use this site, you consent to the use of cookies.

0

Receive Updates 

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of **ENERGY EFFICIENCY
& RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Waste Reduction Pilot: March 2020

DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy sent this bulletin at 03/27/2020 10:43 AM EDT



Waste Reduction Pilot: March 2020

1. Reminder: Accepting Reporting Forms

We encourage partners to submit completed waste pilot reporting forms by **March 31, 2020**, in time for possible inclusion and promotion in the 2020 Better Buildings Progress Report.

Account managers have been trained on the form and can assist in filling them out. Commercial partners may choose to report waste data through [Portfolio Manager](#).

The form can help partners make sense of their waste streams and is attached to this email. Be sure to check out the tabs not only for the waste reporting portion, but also:

- Instructions
- An optional section on energy recovery
- Descriptions of waste types and units of measurement
- An example reporting form



2. First "Office Hours" for Commercial Partners: Thursday, April 2

DOE is hosting the first "office hours" for commercial partners in the waste pilot on **Thursday, April 2, from 12:00-1:00 pm Eastern**. We've had multiple requests from commercial partners to have the opportunity to speak to other participants about their best practices, data collection, ideas, and challenges.

Separate from the quarterly webinars, these "office hours" discussions will be facilitated, but serve as an **optional open dialogue without formal presentations**. Commercial partner contacts should have

PepsiCo Tests Recyclable Rings Made From Molded Pulp

Better Plants partner [PepsiCo](#) is trying recyclable molded pulp rings on its soda cans to replace plastic ones. [Food Dive reports](#) that molded pulp rings and secondary paperboard packaging will be used for a month in Sacramento, California, on the company's 7.5-ounce six-packs of Pepsi and Sierra Mist.

The company has a goal of making all packaging recyclable, compostable, or biodegradable by the year 2025.

Operating Room Nurses Repurpose Blue Wrap



received a calendar invite; please email hannah.debelius@ee.doe.gov if you did not and would like to join.

3. Bristol-Myers Squibb Shares Solution-at-a-Glance on Green Chemistry

Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS), a Better Plants partner and waste pilot participant, has published a case study on how they aligned their waste reduction program with the American Chemical Society's [Principles of Green Chemistry](#).

By reusing materials, intensifying reaction solvent volume, reducing and eliminating extensive chemical workup, and selecting more appropriate solvents, BMS was able to eliminate 14 metric tons of waste from the production process of 9 compounds. **You can learn more by checking out the [solution-at-a-glance](#)** and exploring their 2019 AEE World conference presentation, which is [posted](#) on the waste pilot home page.

4. Tip of the Month: Earning Money on Recyclables

Receive a lot of shipments at your facilities? Paying to haul away cardboard, and land-filling your plastic film and pallet wrap? Stop throwing that money away and start making money from those products instead. **Many specialized waste haulers all over the country are paying for baled cardboard and plastic film/pallet wrap.**

These two commodities, cardboard in particular, bring great profits when sold in the market and have held their value despite changes to the recycling industry in the U.S. Many haulers will take unbaled cardboard and plastic film, though pre-baled product will get you a better payout come pick-up time. Some companies even offer leasing services for balers so the choice is easy to set up a collection. And don't forget: if your cardboard and/or plastic film and pallet wrap are getting baled and picked up, make sure to re-size your recycling and landfill dumpsters and adjust your pick-ups to account for the reallocation of volume. Additional financial savings can be found there as well!

As a partner in the [Waste Reduction Pilot](#), we are sharing updates, tips, and new resources with you at the end of every month. We welcome your thoughts and feedback. If you come across something you'd like to share with the pilot cohort, please let us know via BetterBuildings@EE.Doe.Gov and we'll do our best to feature it.

We are grateful for your support and participation in this pilot. We hope this email finds you healthy and staying safe!

Sincerely,

The Better Buildings/Plants Team

Eli Levine, eli.levine@ee.doe.gov, 202-586-9929
Bruce Lung, robert.lung@ee.doe.gov, 202-586-4411
Ethan Rogers, ethan.rogers@ee.doe.gov, 202-287-6093
Hannah Debelius, hannah.debelius@ee.doe.gov, 202-287-1521

Practice Greenhealth [reports](#) that operating room nurses at the University of Chicago came up with a creative use for the disposable blue wrap that encloses sterile trays.

The nurse were able to sew blue wrap into sleeping mats, which work well for insulating and providing a warm area to sleep on due to their water-resistant material and high-heat capacity. They donated their work to a local organization that provides food for homeless individuals. Nearly 75% of blue wrap collected over two months was diverted from the landfill.

- [Waste Pilot Reporting Form_2020.xlsx](#)

Powered by



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Statement](#) | [Help](#)